

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 FPC-01 AID-20 INT-08 SCEM-02 RSR-01

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R 162019 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4459

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 1505

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, UY

PALMAR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1192

1. PRESIDENT BORDABERRY ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE
MAY 15 THAT GOU WOULD DEFINITELY UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION OF THE
PALMAR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. PROJECT IS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY
COMMISSION (COMISION MIXTA DEL PALMAR, OR COMIPAL)
MADE UP OF THREE MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES AND ONE REPRESENTATIVE
EACH FROM MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
AND COMMERCE, AND OFFICE PLANNING BUDGET, PLUS NON-
VOTING REPRESENTATIVE OF URUGUAYAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION. DECRESS ESTABLISHING COMIPAL ALSO SETS UP
ADVISORY BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL GOU AGENCIES
AND STATE ENTERPRISES.

2. MILITARY IS TO HAVE MAJOR ROLE IN CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT,
WHICH ANNOUNCEMENT SAYS WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1978. TOTAL
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COST OF PROJECT GIVEN AS \$110 MILLION, OF WHICH \$60 MILLION
IS TO REPRESENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE COSTS. WORK ON THE PROJECT
IS TO BEGIN BY THE END OF 1973.

3. THE PROJECT, WHICH WOULD INVOLVE ABOUT 300 MEGAWATTS OF CAPACITY, IS LOCATED ON THE LOWER RIO NEGRO. IT HAS BEEN UNDER PERIODIC CONSIDERATION BY THE GOV SINCE THE EARLY SIXTIES, BUT A LACK OF ADEQUATE FINANCING HAS ALWAYS PREVENTED UNDERTAKING OF THE PROJECT IN THE PAST. PRESIDENT SAID SALTO GRANDE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WILL BE CONSTRUCTED ALONG WITH PALMAR, AND MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, WHO SHARED ANNOUNCEMENT WITH PRESIDENT, ADDED THAT URUGUAY WILL NOT NEGLECT ITS THERMOELECTRIC REQUIREMENTS.

4. MISSION COMMENTS ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL WILL FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM. MEANWHILE WE SUGGEST COMMERCE ALERT U. S. FIRMS THAT MIGHT BE INTERESTED, SOME OF WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAVE SAO PAULO OFFICES.

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30 JUN 2005

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